

claims 1-125: canceled

claims 126-186: canceled

1 **187. (currently amended)** A system for supporting management of a business
2 by persons involved therein,
3 the system comprising:

4 a processor which has access to a representation of a model of the
5 business, the model including representations of model entities, the
6 representations of model entities belonging to hierarchies including a hierarchy
7 and/or another hierarchy, and the representations of model entities providing
8 access to information relating to the business and

9 an interface to the system for the persons, the interface being provided by
10 the processor and the interface permitting a person to perceive and modify the
11 model entities and the hierarchies and to perceive and modify the information to
12 which the model entities provide access.

1 **188. (previously presented)** The system set forth in claim 187 wherein:
2 the system further permits a person to sort model entities according to the entities'
3 hierarchy membership.

1 **189. (previously presented)** The system set forth in claim 187 wherein:
2 a representation of a model entity includes representations of the information.

1 **190. (previously presented)** The system set forth in claim 189 wherein:
2 the interface further permits a person to sort the model entities according to values
3 of the included representations of the information.

1 **191. (previously presented)** The system set forth in claim 187 wherein:
2 there is a plurality of types of model entities;
3 a representation of a model entity specifies the represented model entity's type;
4 and

5 the interface permits the person to perceive the type of a model entity.

1 **192. (previously presented)** The system set forth in claim 187 wherein:

2 the model further includes representations of further information that are related
3 to certain of the representations of the model entities;

4 the interface permits the person to perceive how the further information is related
5 to the model entities and to access the related further information.

1 **193. (previously presented)** The system set forth in claim 192 wherein:

2 the interface further permits the person to modify the further information.

1 **194. (previously presented)** The system set forth in claim 193 wherein:

2 the further information is a document that is accessible to the system.

1 **195. (previously presented)** The system set forth in claim 193 wherein:

2 the further information is a message sent to the person by another person.

1 **196. (previously presented)** The system set forth in claim 194 wherein:

2 the further information is a discussion concerning the model entity among the
3 persons.

1 **197. (previously presented)** A data storage device, the data storage device being
2 characterized in that:

3 the data storage device contains a program which, when executed in a computer
4 system, implements the system set forth in claim 187.

1 **198. (previously presented).** A method of supporting management of a business in a
2 system which includes a processor, the processor having access to a database containing a
3 model of the business, the model including representations of model entities, the
4 representations of model entities belonging to a hierarchy and/or another hierarchy, and
5 the representations of model entities providing access to information relating to the

6 business, the processor providing an interface for one or more users of the system, and
7 the method comprising the steps performed in the system of:

8 receiving a definition of a model entity belonging to a model of the business from
9 a person involved in the business via the interface and responding thereto by producing a
10 representation of the model entity in the database; and

11 receiving a first indication of a first hierarchical relationship between the model
12 entity and another model entity belonging to the hierarchy via the interface and
13 responding thereto by using the interface to relate the model entity to the other model
14 entity in the hierarchy and

15 receiving a second indication of a second hierarchical relationship between the
16 model entity and a third model entity belonging to the other hierarchy via the interface
17 and responding thereto by using the interface to relate the model entity to the third model
18 entity in the other hierarchy.

1 **199. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 198 further comprising the
2 step of:

3 receiving an indication from the person via the interface that one or the other of
4 the hierarchical relationships is to be shown in the interface and responding thereto by
5 showing the indicated relationship in the interface.

1 **200. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 198 wherein:

2 the hierarchy and the other hierarchy are different types of hierarchical
3 relationships.

1 **201. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 200 wherein the method
2 further comprises the steps of:

3 receiving a third indication from the person via the interface of the type of
4 hierarchical relationship to be used in displaying the model entity in the interface; and

5 responding thereto by displaying the model entity in the interface using the
6 indicated hierarchical relationship.

1 **202. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 199 wherein:
2 the indicated hierarchical relationship is shown in the interface by displaying
3 model entities as sorted by the relationship.

1 **203. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 198 wherein the
2 representation of the model entity includes a representation of information about the
3 business and
4 the method further comprises the steps of:
5 receiving a third indication of the model entity from the person via the interface;
6 receiving a fourth indication of the information from the person via the interface;
7 and
8 responding thereto by producing the representation of the information in the
9 representation of the model entity.

1 **204. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the
2 steps of:
3 receiving a fifth indication from the person via the interface that the information
4 in the representation of the information in the representation of the model entity is to be
5 displayed; and
6 responding thereto by showing the indicated information in the interface.

1 **205. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the
2 step of:
3 receiving a sixth information from the person via the interface that the
4 information in the representation of the information in the representation of the model
5 entity is to be modified; and
6 responding thereto by permitting the user to modify the information.

1 **206. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 203 further comprising the
2 steps of: receiving a sixth indication from the person via the interface that the

3 model entities are to be sorted by values of the information in the representation of the
4 information in the representation of the model entity; and
5 responding thereto by showing the sorted model entities in the interface.

1 **207. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 198 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 receiving a third indication from the person via the interface of a model entity;
4 receiving a fourth indication that further information is to be related to the
5 indicated model entity; and
6 responding thereto by relating a representation of the further information to the
7 representation of the indicated model entity.

1 **208. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 207 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 receiving a fifth indication from the person via the interface that the further
4 information related to the model entity is to be displayed; and
5 responding thereto by showing the related further information in the interface.

1 **209. (previously presented)** The method set forth in claim 208 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 receiving a sixth indication from the person via the interface that the further
4 information related to the model entity is to be modified; and
5 responding thereto by modifying the related further information.

1 **210. (previously presented)** A data storage device, the data storage device being
2 characterized in that:

3 the data storage device contains a program which, when executed in a computer
4 system, implements the method set forth in claim 198.